

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ICAE-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /029 W
-----050045 270534Z /12
R 261154Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2417

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 4720

PASS TO ICA SECURITY

DEPT FOR EUR/EX, A/SY/OPS/FO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, PORS, PINS, PDIP
SUBJECT: INCIDENT INVOLVING PAO - ANKARA

REF: ANKARA 4538

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AFOSI-ANKARA REPORT ON SUBJECT
INCIDENT:

QTE A USICA OFFICIAL WAS AMBUSHED IN HIS VEHICLE ON A
LITTLE USED ROAD NEAR ANKARA AIR STATION IN THE LATE EVENING
OF 15 JUN 78. WHILE ROBBERY DID NOT APPEAR TO BE THE MOTIVE,
HIS JEWELRY, WALLET AND OTHER ITEMS WERE TAKEN. THE THREE
PERPETRATORS APPEARED TO BE COLLEGE-AGED YOUTHS ARMED WITH
MACHINE GUNS AND AUTOMATIC PISTOLS AND ALL WORE WHAT APPEARED
TO BE PALESTINIAN HEADRESS. NOBODY WAS INJURED.

DETAILS:

A. THIS REPORT CONTAINS UNPROCESSED INFORMATION. PLANS
AND OR POLICIES SHOULD NOT BE MODIFIED OR EVOLVED SOLELY ON
THE BASIS OF THIS REPORT.

B. SOURCE, USAF SECURITY POLICE, SAID THAT A U.S.
EMBASSY OFFICER HAD BEEN STOPPED AND ROBBED JUST OUTSIDE THE
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CONFINES OF ANKARA AIR STATION (AAS) AT ABOUT 2210, 15 JUN
78. SOURCE BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER
WHO HAD SPOKEN TO THE VICTIM.

C. SOURCE, THE VICTIM OF THIS INCIDENT, SAID THAT AT
APPROXIMATELY 2205, 15 JUN 78, HE DEPARTED AAS FOR HIS HOUSE
IN HIS ORANGE VOLKSWAGEN CONVERTIBLE WITH DIPLOMATIC
LICENSE PLATES. WITH HIM WERE HIS SON AND THE SON OF A U.S.

MILITARY OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. EMBASSY, BOTH BETWEEN 10 AND 12 YEARS OF AGE. SOURCE LEFT THE MAIN GATE OF AAS AND TURNED LEFT ON THE "BACK ROAD" WHICH LEADS TO THE DIKMEN//CANKAYA DISTRICTS OF ANKARA. HE HAD JUST TRAVERSED THIS ROAD ABOUT 10 TO 15 MINUTES EARLIER WHILE GOING TO AAS TO PICK UP THE BOYS. AT THAT EARLIER TIME, HE NOTICED ONE OR TWO OTHER AMERICAN VEHICLES MOVING AHEAD OF HIM AT VARIOUS POINTS ON THE ROAD BUT DID NOT NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL. AFTER HE LEFT AAS, HE WAS APPROACHING THE SECTION OF THE ROAD NEAR THE AAS WATER TOWER. (THE "BACK ROAD" RUNS PARALLEL WITH THE AAS FENCE LINE FOR SOME DISTANCE.) AT THAT POINT THREE MALES CAME OVER THE DIRT EMBANKMENT ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD (OPPOSITE THE SIDE OF THE ROAD NEAR AAS). TWO OF THE MEN WERE CARRYING WHAT SOURCE DESCRIBED AS MACHINE GUNS OR WHAT HE ENVISIONS A "STEN GUN" TO LOOK LIKE. THE THIRD INDIVIDUAL WAS HOLDING A LARGE AUTOMATIC PISTOL WHICH LOOKED SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO A .45 CALIBER. THE MEN GESTURED WITH THEIR WEAPONS FOR SOURCE TO STOP, WHICH HE DID. THE MAN WITH THE PISTOL OPENED THE DRIVER'S DOOR (WHICH WAS UNLOCKED) AND TRIED TO GET IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT. AS SOURCE WAS IN THE SEAT AND COULD NOT MOVE OVER DUE TO THE CENTER CONSOLE, THE MAN FINALLY STOOD BACK AND LOOKED FRUSTRATED. THE MAN THEN TOLD HIM, IN TURKISH, TO STOP THE NOISE (COMING FROM THE DOOR ALARM.) SOURCE, WHO SPEAKS TURKISH BUT TRIED TO GIVE THE MEN THE IMPRESSION THAT HE DID NOT SPEAK TURKISH BUT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FROM THE INFLECTION AND GESTURE, TOOK UNCLASSIFIED

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THE KEYS OUT OF THE IGNITION AND HANDED THEM TO THE MAN WHO DID NOT SEEM TO WANT THEM BUT DID KEEP THEM. SOURCE THEN TRIED TO GET OUT OF THE CAR BUT WAS PUSHED IN. SOURCE THEN, TO APPEAR THAT HE ONLY SUSPECTED A ROBBERY, HANDED OVER HIS WALLET. AT THAT TIME SOURCE'S SON SITTING IN THE FRONT PASSENGER'S SEAT, BEGAN FIDGETING AND WAS POKED IN THE HEAD WITH THE BARREL OF ONE OF THE MACHINE GUNS BEING HELD BY THE TWO MEN STANDING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE CAR. BOTH BOYS STARTED CRYING AND SOURCE SPOKE TO THEM TO QUIET THEM DOWN AND TOLD THEM TO KEEP THEIR HANDS ABOVE THEIR HEADS. THE MAN WITH THE PISTOL POINTED AT TWO GYM BAGS IN THE BACK OF CAR. SOURCE TOOK THE BAGS, WHICH CONTAINED THE BOY'S BASEBALL UNIFORMS AND ONE BOY'S WRISTWATCH AND WALLET, AND HANDED THEM TO THE MAN, WHO THEN WALKED AROUND TO THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE CAR AND TALKED WITH THE OTHER TWO MEN. THE MAN RETURNED, SHUT THE DRIVER'S DOOR, AND WAVED AT SOURCE TO DRIVE ON, WHICH SOURCE COULD NOT DO AS HE DID NOT HAVE THE CAR KEYS. THE MAN RETURNED TO THE OTHER TWO MEN, WALKED BACK TO THE CAR AND LEANED IN THE WINDOW AND SAID "DEVAM ET", TURKISH FOR "CONTINUE" OR "GO ON". SOURCE MOTIONED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE THE KEY AND THE MAN TOOK THEM OUT AND HANDED THEM TO SOURCE.

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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PASS TO ICA SECURITY

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AS SOURCE REACHED FOR THE KEYS, THE MAN NOTICED THE DIAMOND RING AND GOLD WATCH ON SOURCE'S HAND. THE MAN THEN GENTLY TOOK THE WATCH AND RING OFF SOURCE'S HAND AND A GOLD TURKISH PUZZLE RING THAT WAS ON SOURCE'S OTHER HAND. ONE OF THE MEN THEN SAID IN TURKISH, "GO THAT WAY AND NOTHING WILL HAPPEN". SOURCE REPLIED, IN BROKEN ENGLISH, "WE GO, YES?" THE MAN SAID IN TURKISH, "YES, KEEP GOING". SOURCE THEN STARTED THE CAR AND DROVE DIRECTLY TO THE EMBASSY WHERE HE CONTACTED THE DUTY OFFICER. SOURCE DESCRIBED THE THREE INDIVIDUALS AS BETWEEN 5'8" AND 5'10" TALL WITH NORMAL BUILDS. THEY APPEARED TO BE ABOUT COLLEGE AGE. THE MEN WERE WEARING DRAB KHAKIS OR DENIMS UNDER IDENTICAL DARK RED SCARVES OR PIECES OF CLOTH TIED AROUND THEIR HEAD IN THE FASHION USED BY PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS WITH THE ENDS OF THE SCARVES COVERING THEIR FACES SO ONLY THEIR EYES SHOWED. NONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS SPOKE IN ENGLISH BUT THE TURKISH THEY SPOKE INDICATED THAT THEY WERE EDUCATED. ALL THREE MEN SEEMED TO BE NERVOUS AND EXCITABLE. SOURCE SAID THE STOLEN JEWELRY WAS WORTH \$800 TO \$900 AND THERE WAS \$180 IN U.S. CURRENCY IN HIS WALLET, WHICH ALSO CONTAINED IDENTIFICATION CARDS (BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY), CREDIT CARDS, A RATION AND OFFICER'S CLUB CARD, PHOTOGRAPHS

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OF HIS FAMILY, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS ONLY OF ALL SENIOR EMBASSY AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ANKARA. SOURCE FELT THAT THE INCIDENT WAS INITIALLY A TERRORIST ATTACK OF SOME KIND BUT THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE CHILDREN PROBABLY DETERRED THEM. SOURCE SAID THAT HE USED THE BACK ROAD TO AAS ONLY TWO OR THREE OTHER TIMES WITHIN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. HE ALSO HAS NOT OBSERVED ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITY AT OR NEAR HIS RESIDENCE AND HAS NEVER FELT THAT HE WAS UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

ORIGINATOR'S COMMENTS: THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOLE MOTIVE OF THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS INCIDENT WAS ROBBERY APPEARS SLIM FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS. THE BACK ROAD TO AAS IS AN UNPAVED TRACK VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE IN THE WINTER. IT IS USED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BY AMERICANS GOING TO OR FROM AAS AND BY LOCAL RESIDENTS OF THE NEARBY VILLAGE OF BALGAT. THE ROAD IS NOT WELL TRAVELLED BY DAY AND INFREQUENTLY TRAVELLED BY NIGHT. THE ROAD IS NOT LIT AND THERE ARE VERY FEW BUILDINGS OR RESIDENCES NEAR IT. AS A FEW AMERICANS USE THE ROAD AT NIGHTS AS A SHORT-CUT HOME FROM THE BASE THEATRE OR THE NCO CLUB AT AAS, ITS ISOLATION AND SOLITUDE MAKE IT AN ALMOST IDEAL LOCATION FOR AN AMBUSH. THOUGH HIGHWAY ROBBERIES ARE LITERALLY A FACT OF LIFE IN CERTAIN PARTS OF TURKEY, THEY, THEY ARE USUALLY DIRECTED AT BUSES FULL OF PEOPLE ON MAIN HIGHWAYS AND ARE PERPETRATED BY VILLAGERS, NOT EDUCATED COLLEGE-AGED YOUTHS. ALSO, THE PERIOD 15-17 JUNE IS WHERE THE NATIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS FOR TURKISH UNIVERSITIES ARE BEING GIVEN, OVER 80,000 YOUTHS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN ANKARA ALONE FOR THE EXAMINATIONS AND THE TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE ARE EXPECTING TROUBLE. THE NEARBY VILLAGE OF BALGAT HAS ALSO HAD ITS SHARE OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AMONG COLLEGE-AGED YOUTHS, TO INCLUDE AN ARMED LEFTIST ACTIVIST WHO ASKED FOR SANCTUARY AT AAS FROM OTHER PURSUING ACTIVISTS. CONTACTS BY THIS OFFICE ON THE MORNING OF 16 JUNE 78 WITH ELEMENTS OF THE ANKARA TNP WHO WOULD NORMALLY INVESTIGATE UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS TYPE OF INCIDENT DISCLOSED THAT THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF THE AMBUSH. ALL DIRECT COORDINATION WITH THE TNP IS BEING DONE BY THE U.S. EMBASSY'S SECURITY FUNCTION. THE PERPETRATORS HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED AND, BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, THEY PROBABLY WILL NOT BE CAUGHT OR IDENTIFIED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THIS IS THE SECOND AMBUSH OF A U.S. VEHICLE IN TURKEY THIS YEAR. IN JAN 78, A USAF CREWCAB TRUCK WAS AMBUSHED NEAR IZMIR, TURKEY. A USAF AIRMAN WAS SHOT IN THE WRIST AND THE TURKISH DRIVER WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN THAT INCIDENT. THIS IS THE 15 SIGNIFICANT ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENT IN TURKEY THUS FAR THIS YEAR. UNQTE SPIERS

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